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August 2005

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SUITE 370
ALEXANDRIA, VA 22314

SEP 01 2005

In re Application of:
YASUTOMO YAMAMOTO ET AL.
Serial No.: 10/683,688
Filed: 09 October 2003
Docket: 81940.0063
Title: STORAGE SYSTEM THAT IS CONNECTED TO EXTERNAL STORAGE

DECISION ON PETITION TO MAKE SPECIAL UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.102(d)

This is a decision on the petition filed on July 9, 2004, to make the above-identified application special under the accelerated examination procedure set forth in MPEP § 708.02(VIII) in accordance with 37 C.F.R. § 1.102(d).

The petition to make the application special is **GRANTED**.

In support of the petition, petition provides: a) the applicable petition fee; b) a statement that a pre-examination search was made, including the search areas; c) a statement that all claims are directed towards a single invention, and an intent to elect without traverse should election be required; and d) a detailed discussion of each of a number of references submitted as being pertinent to patentability, pointing out how the claimed subject matter is distinguishable over those references.

For accelerated examination under MPEP § 708.02(VIII) in accordance with 37 C.F.R. § 1.102(d), a petition with the following showing is required: a) a petition fee; b) all claims are directed to a single invention; c) a statement that a pre-examination search was made, including the search areas; d) a copy of each of the (non-US) references deemed most closely related to the claimed subject matter; and e) a detailed discussion of the references pointing out with the particularity required by 37 CFR 1.111 (b) and (c), how the claimed subject matter is distinguishable over the references.

The requirements of MPEP § 708.02(VIII)(a) – (e) are considered to have been met. The application will be advanced out of turn for examination, and will continue to be treated as special throughout the entire prosecution in the Office according to the procedure set forth in MPEP § 708.02(VIII).

The application file is being forwarded to the examiner for expedited prosecution.

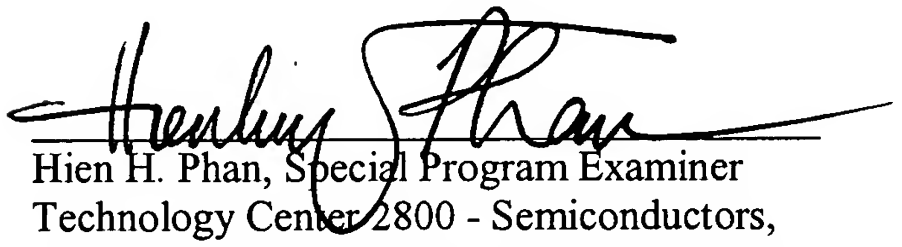
If the examiner can make this application special without prejudice to any possible interfering applications, and he/she should make a rigid search for such, he/she is authorized to do so for the next action. Should the application be rejected, the application will not be considered special for the subsequent action unless the applicant promptly makes a bona fide effort to place the application in condition for allowance, even if it is necessary to have an interview with the examiner to accomplish this purpose.

If the examiner finds any interfering application for the same subject matter, he/she should consider such application simultaneously with this application and should state in the official letter of such application that he/she is taking it out of its turn because of possible interference.

Should an appeal be taken in this application or should this application becomes involved in an interference, consideration of the appeal and the interference will be expedited by all Patent and Trademark Office officials concerned, contingent likewise upon diligent prosecution by the applicant.

After allowance, this application will be given priority for printing. See M.P.E.P. § 1309.

Any inquiry regarding this decision should be directed to Hien H. Phan, Special Program Examiner, at (571) 272-1606.



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